# **Agency Overview**

The Idaho State Legislature created the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) in 1919 to assist and regulate the state's fast growing agricultural industry. The primary purposes for establishment were to protect Idaho's crops and livestock from the introduction and spread of pests and transmittable diseases, to help provide the industry with a system for the orderly marketing of agricultural commodities, and to protect consumers from contaminated products or fraudulent marketing practices.

The department derives its statutory authority from multiple sections of the Idaho Code. Section 22-101 creates the Department of Agriculture and the position of director. Section 22-102 provides that the director "shall organize the department into such divisions and other administrative sub-units as may be necessary in order to efficiently administer the department," and section 22-103 lists specific directorial duties. Title 22 also contains the authority for the Plant Industries Division, the Agricultural Resources Division, and the department's Marketing Bureau. The primary authority for the Animal Industries Division lies within Title 25 and Title 37, while the Agricultural Inspections Division, which includes the Bureaus of Weights and Measures and Bonded Warehouse, derives authority from Titles 69 and 71.

In 1997, the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission was realigned to reside within the Department of Agriculture. While maintaining a level of independence, the commission and department work cooperatively to coordinate complimentary programs and responsibilities, especially in the areas of agriculture and related natural resources. The commission's authority is derived from Title 22, Chapter 27. Five commodity commissions - the Idaho Alfalfa and Clover Seed Commission, Idaho Honey Advertising Commission, Idaho Hop Commission, Idaho Mint Commission and Idaho Sheep Commission - are also technically housed within the ISDA, although each entity maintains its autonomy. The department works closely with all other agriculture commodity commissions and is currently helping the Idaho Aquaculture Commission get established.

The Idaho Food Quality Assurance Laboratory (IFQAL) was assigned by the Idaho Legislature to the Department of Agriculture on July 1, 2005. The department works cooperatively with the Idaho Food Quality Assurance Institute under its authority in Title 67, Chapter 83 to administrator the day-to-day operations of the laboratory.

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture is now 86 years old, but it continues to be a youthful, creative and vibrant state agency. In May 2005, the department unveiled a new website which is second-to-none in caliber and ease of use. The site contains detailed descriptions of the department's 65 statutory responsibilities, including an alphabetical list of programs under the agency's jurisdiction. Information on any function within the department is no more than two clicks away. Everything from news releases to smoke management program updates can be found on the website.

The site is managed by a web board which routinely meets to discuss new website innovations and uses that could benefit our customers – the agriculture industry and the citizens of Idaho. The website and its management structure are considered a model for other state agencies to replicate, and are expected to continue to provide the public a new level of access to the department for years to come.

The department is currently staffed with approximately 320 full-time employees. The Bureau of Shipping Point Inspection and other units of the department also hire hundreds of seasonal employees each year with as many as 325 being on-board at any one time in 2004.

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture has a current budget of approximately \$36.4 million. Only 27 percent of the budget comes from the state general fund. The vast majority of the department's funding comes from various types of fees assessed directly to the segment of industry being regulated or receiving services. Federal sources also assist the department with the funding of certain programs.

# A Mission, A Vision, A Philosophy

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) has adopted the following mission, vision and philosophy to help direct the agency's regulatory, promotional, and policy-making activities toward a common goal:

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**Mission** - Serving consumers and agriculture by safeguarding the public, plants, animals, and the environment through education and regulation.

**Vision** - The Idaho State Department of Agriculture has an ever-important place in one of the state's largest industry sectors. We recognize that Idaho's economic well-being is forever tied to the health of its farming and ranching. We also recognize that new opportunities exist that will redefine the future of agriculture in Idaho. As agriculture changes, ensuring efficient and superior service delivery will continue to be the department's foremost priority.

The director and his administrative staff believe that fostering an atmosphere of mutual respect – which encourages personal and professional development through education and training, as well as provides a challenging work environment – is crucial to departmental success. Personnel strive to work cooperatively at all levels, utilizing appropriate technologies and tools to support creative, responsive and accurate decisions. Above all, ISDA employees pledge to optimize the value of those funds entrusted to it, and to dedicate all of its resources to working towards the optimal benefit of all Idahoans.

**Operating Philosophy** - ISDA employees strive to maintain logical, harmonious and proactive working relationships with producers, processors and consumers to ensure the public safe food, alternative fuel and a domestic fiber supply, while simultaneously safeguarding the environment. Department members are a team of professionals dedicated to effective performance and are unwavering in their promotion of a positive future for Idaho agriculture. ISDA leadership seeks to promote a creative and highly motivated workplace that emphasizes personal and professional growth, while at the same time allowing individuals and agency policies to remain open to meet new challenges and seek new opportunities. Department personnel are committed to serving in a responsive, fair and ethical manner.

**ISDA Goals** - The Idaho State Department of Agriculture strives to be the model for government agencies, providing a careful balance of education, regulation and promotion of the agriculture industry in the state. ISDA will:

- Use our resources to maintain the highest possible quality and safety of food and fiber.
- Lead the nation in the implementation of an Animal Identification program.
- Provide immediate response to complaints including animal care issues, odors and smoke management
- Protect the public by ensuring the accuracy of scales and fuel pumps.
- Promote public awareness, education and understanding of the agriculture industry.
- Be transparent in our daily interaction with the public.
- Engage policymakers and industry groups in discussions on issues of concern or interest to the well-being of agriculture in the state.
- Increase the economic diversity and vitality of Idaho agriculture.
- Expand domestic and international markets for Idaho food and agriculture products.
- Work cooperatively with the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission and other stakeholders to protect and improve Idaho's water quality.
- Promote a customer-focused environment.
- Increase the effectiveness and efficiency of departmental operations, mindful that we are the stewards of the public and industry monies entrusted to us.
- Increase the overall professional capabilities of department employees, in order to better serve the public.
- Improve communication lines with internal and external customers.

# Core Functions/Idaho Code <a href="Division of Agricultural Inspections">Division of Agricultural Inspections</a> Bonded Warehouse

**State:** §§69-201 to 267 **Federal:** U.S. Warehouse Act

This program provides financial protection to producers that deposit agricultural commodities-grown in Idaho in a bonded state licensed warehouse in the event of a failure. Warehouse examinations are conducted annually, inventories are balanced to a "Daily Position Record" and the warehouse is examined for proper sanitation. This program also administers the Idaho Commodity Indemnity Fund.

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# **Commodity Dealers**

State: §§69-502 to 525

Federal: U.S. Warehouse Act

This program provides financial protection to producers that transfer agricultural commodities grown in Idaho to a bonded state licensed commodity dealer in the event of a failure.

#### **Seed Indemnity Fund**

**State:** §§22-5101 to 5129

This program provides financial protection to producers of seed crops grown in Idaho if a bonded state licensed seed buyer fails. This program administers the Idaho Seed Indemnity Fund

#### **Bureau of Weights and Measures**

**State:** §§71-108 to 411; §§37-2501 to 2520

This program authorizes the department of agriculture to enforce accuracy, design and operating practices for all commercial weights and measures devices within the state to ensure uniformity and equity for the consumer and the business community. It also administers the provisions of the Oils Law. The Metrology Laboratory offers traceability to national standards for mass, length and volume.

#### **Bureau of Shipping Point Inspection**

Federal: Coop. Agreement #12-25-A-20

ISDA has a cooperative agreement with USDA to sample and grade fresh fruits and vegetables grown in Idaho under the USDA Grade Standards.

#### **Dealers in Farm Produce Act**

State: §§22-1301 to 1317

This program protects producers of farm products grown in Idaho if a state licensed and bonded dealer, broker, or commission merchant fails to pay producers through breach of contracts or commits fraud against producers of farm products.

Food Safety Audits State: §22-107

This program provides Idaho growers and packers consumer protection in establishing compliance to Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP). This program also facilitates the development of out-of-state markets for Idaho produce.

#### Division of Agricultural Resources - Pesticide Enforcement Program

**Licensing Requirements** 

**State:** §§22-3404 to 3406 **Federal:** FIFRA; P.L.104-170

Professional and private applicators who apply restricted use pesticides must be licensed by ISDA. Professional applicators must maintain those records for three (3) years. Pesticide dealers who sell restricted use pesticides must also be licensed by ISDA, and maintain those records for three (3) years.

#### **Low Flying Prohibitions**

**State**: §§22-3401 to 3406

**Federal:** FIFRA; P.L. 104-170 flying over specified areas during

Authorizes ISDA to enforce rule(s) prohibiting aircraft pilots from turning or low flying over specified areas during spray operations.

# **Wind Velocity Restrictions**

**State:** §§22-3401 to 3406 **Federal:** FIFRA, P.L.104-170

Authorizes ISDA to enforce rule prohibiting application of any pesticide in sustained wind conditions exceeding 10 miles per hour or in wind conditions exceeding product label directions.

#### **Storage of Pesticide Containers**

**State:** §§22-3401 to 3406 **Federal:** FIFRA, P.L.104-170

Authorizes ISDA to enforce rule(s) safeguarding the environment by ensuring that pesticide containers are handled, transported, displayed, and stored properly.

# **Unusable Pesticide Collection and Disposal**

**State:** §§22-3401 to 3406 **Federal:** FIFRA, P.L. 104-170

The director or designated agent may, if deemed necessary for the protection of the environment, take possession and dispose of canceled, suspended, or otherwise unusable pesticides. These unusable pesticides are then disposed of in an environmentally conscientious manner.

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#### **Chemigation Program**

State: §§22-3401 to 3406 Federal: FIFRA, P.L. 104-170

ISDA is charged with safeguarding ground and surface water by requiring applicators to be licensed who apply fertilizers or pesticides through any type of irrigation system. Chemigators are also required to use specified chemication equipment for each method of irrigation.

#### **Worker Protection Standard**

**State:** §§22-3401 to 3406 Federal: FIFRA, P.L. 104-170

The Worker Protection Standard (WPS) is designed to protect agricultural workers and pesticide handlers from being exposed to agricultural pesticides. It covers pesticides that are used in the production of agricultural plants on farms, forests, nurseries, and greenhouses.

# **Urban Pesticide Program**

Federal: FIFRA, P.L. 104-170

**State:** §§22-3401 to 3406

ISDA reduces pesticide use and potential exposure to pesticide residues through inspections and education to ensure the proper use of pesticide products. The Urban Pesticide Program encourages the use of integrated pest management techniques (IPM) to reduce pesticide use and potential exposure. The program focuses on public facilities such as schools, government buildings and recreational areas.

#### **West Nile Virus Task Force**

ISDA is working in concert with IDHW, IDFG, Health Districts, Mosquito Abatement Districts, Association of Counties, University of Idaho Extension Service, and the Attorney's General representative to develop a plan to respond to the West Nile Virus within Idaho and the efforts to control the disease's mosquito vectors.

#### **USDA Record Keeping Requirements**

Federal: Cooperative Agreement with USDA, AMS

Under a Cooperative Agreement with the USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service, ISDA cooperates in a record keeping educational outreach program; determines compliance with Federal Pesticide Record keeping requirements by certified applicators; and conducts compliance assistance activities. These records can be made available to emergency medical personnel in case of suspected human exposure to pesticides.

#### **Container Recycling Program (CROP)**

ISDA, in cooperation with private industry, recycles clean, empty pesticide or fertilizer containers.

# **Pesticide Registrations**

State: §§22-3402 & 3403

State: §§22-3401 to 3406

Federal: FIFRA Sec. 3, 18, 23, 24, 32; 40CFR 150-189

ISDA regulates the sale of all pesticide and spray adjuvant products in Idaho. Labels are reviewed and approved prior to distribution. ISDA aids the agricultural industry in the development of new, labeled uses of pesticides for Special Local Need and Emergency pest problems. Permits are also issued for the use of experimental pesticides for the purpose of developing data for these new uses.

# **Pesticide Certification & Licensing**

State: §§22-3404 & 3406

Federal: FIFRA Sec. 11, 23 & 30; 40CFR 171

ISDA provides pesticide applicator training and certification for current and potential pesticide applicators. Professional applicators must pass minimum certification requirements, attend recertification training and provide proof of insurance to apply pesticides in Idaho. Growers who want to apply restricted use pesticides on their property are also required to pass minimum certification requirements and attend recertification training.

# **Emergency Coordinator**

State: Idaho Disaster Preparedness Act of 1975, as amended

Federal: Public Law 93-288, as amended by PL 100-707

As the director's designated agent, participates in disaster preparedness activities and responds to emergency situations. These functions will be consistent with the Homeland Security Act.

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# <u>Division of Agricultural Resources - Agricultural Water Quality Program</u>

Agricultural Ground Water Quality Protection Program
State: §§39-120\*, 126\*, 127\*; §§22-3401 to 3426 ISDA is the lead agency in implementing the Agricultural Ground Water Quality Protection Program for Idaho adopted in 1996. The program works to identify agricultural ground water pollutants and develop coordinated response strategies.

#### Idaho State Pesticide Management Plan

**State:** §§39-120\*, 126\*, 127\*; §§22-3401 to 3426

Federal: FIFRA, P.L. 104-170

The pesticides and water quality program includes the creation and implementation of the Idaho State Pesticide Management Plan (PMP) for Ground Water Protection, monitoring of ground water for pesticides, education of applicators, potential pesticide and ground water specific rules, BMPs and regulation of specific active ingredients.

#### **Ground Water Quality Monitoring**

**State**: §§39-120\*, 126\*, 127\*; §§22-3401 to 3426

Federal: FIFRA, P.L. 104-170

ISDA conducts agricultural related regional, local, dairy, CAFO, enforcement, and BMP effectiveness monitoring related to pesticides, nitrates, and animal waste contaminants.

#### **Surface Water Quality Monitoring And BMP Evaluation Programs**

**State:** §39-3601\*, §22-2718, §§22-3401 to 3426, §37-403, §22-4901 to 4910

Federal: FIFRA, P.L. 104-170

Under Water Quality Law 39-3601, SCC and ISDA have various authorities to conduct BMP effectiveness evaluations related to Ag TMDL implementation plans. ISDA works with the SCC and SCDs to conduct BMP effectiveness monitoring at the farm and small watershed level. ISDA also has the authority to monitor surface water in response to pollutant situations and enforcement related to pesticides, dairies, and CAFOs.

#### **CAFO Site Advisory Team**

**State**: §67-6529

The staff of ISDA's Water Quality Bureau - as well as the department's engineering and technical services staff - serves on CAFO Site Advisory Team, to fulfill the Site Advisory Team Suitability Determination Act, to provide hydrogeological expertise and assessment to counties who request assistance in siting CAFOs.

# **Smoke Management and Crop Residue Disposal**

State: §§22-4801 to 4804

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) cooperated with the agricultural community in establishing voluntary smoke management and crop residue burning programs in order to reduce the impact on Idaho citizens. Individual fields are required to be registered with ISDA and receive approval before burning is allowed.

# Division of Animal Industries - Animal Health / Disease Control

Import / Export

**State:** §§25-201 to 237

Federal: 9 CFR Subchapter C and D

All animals entering Idaho, with the exception of slaughter cattle and cattle consigned to specifically approved livestock markets, must have a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection and/or an Idaho issued permit. There were 570,652 imports in FY2004. Animals being exported from Idaho must have appropriate export certificates defined by the destination jurisdiction.

**State:** §§25-201 to 237, §§25-601 to 618

Federal: 9 CFR Subchapter B and C

Idaho is classified as a Brucellosis Free state for cattle and swine. Maintenance of free status requires continuous surveillance and testing of suspicious animals or herds. All female cattle in Idaho are required by state law to be vaccinated by a veterinarian to prevent Brucellosis, except those cattle that are consigned directly to slaughter or an approved feedlot.

**Tuberculosis (TB)** State: §§25-201 to 237, §§25-301 to 308, §§25-401 to 403

Federal: 9 CFR Subchapter B and C

Idaho requires a TB test for importation of livestock from some states; and some jurisdictions require a negative TB test performed by a veterinarian for import of Idaho livestock. Idaho is accredited free under the National

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Cattle TB Program and has 38 certified TB free cervid herds. Maintenance of free status requires continuous surveillance and testing of suspicious animals or herds.

#### **Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)**

**State:** §§25-201 to 237, §§25-3701 to 3709 **Federal:** 9 CFR Subchapter B and C

CWD is a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (disease of the brain) that affects animals in the cervid family. All domestic cervidae (fallow deer, elk, reindeer) over sixteen (16) months of age that die or are slaughtered in Idaho are required to be tested for CWD.

Trichomoniasis State: §25-201 to 237

All beef breeding bulls, except virgins, located south of the Salmon River are required to be tested by a veterinarian annually for Trichomoniasis. All imported beef breeding bulls, except virgins, are required to be tested prior to importation.

#### **Pseudorabies/Swine Health**

**State:** §§25-201 to 237, §§25-3401 to 3407

Federal: 9 CFR Subchapter B and C

Idaho is a Stage V (free) State in the National Pseudorabies Program. Maintenance of this status requires surveillance and testing of suspicious herds and animals. ISDA has a general program for porcine diseases.

Scrapie / Sheep State: §§25-126 to 160

Federal: 9 CFR Subchapter B and C

ISDA provides the Idaho Sheep Commission contract veterinary services for the Commission's regulatory authority. All breeding sheep over one year old, moving in commerce, are required by federal regulation to be identified.

**State:** §§25-201 to 237

Federal: 9 CFR Subchapter G

All poultry producers must comply with the National Poultry Improvement Program.

# **Animal Health Emergency Management**

State: §§25-201 to 237 Federal: 9 CFR Subchapter D

State law and rules are in place to enable ISDA to prevent and respond to animal health emergencies or foreign animal diseases.

#### **General Animal Health and related Programs**

State: §§25-201 to 237 Federal: 9 CFR Subchapter C and D

ISDA has programs that cover Equine Infectious Anemia, Interstate Grazing, Rabies and other Zoonotic Diseases (transmissible to humans), and General Disease Investigations.

#### **Division of Animal Industries - Facility / Animal Requirements**

**Idaho Approved Feedlots** 

**State:** §§25-201 to 237, §§25-601 to 618

Feedlots that are inspected and approved by ISDA are allowed to feed certain restricted classes of animals for slaughter.

Aquaculture State: §\$22-4601 to 4605

All commercial Aquaculture facilities (161 facilities) are required by state law to be licensed by ISDA.

Animal Welfare State: §§25-3501 to 3521

Federal: 9 CFR Subchapter A\*

State law requires ISDA to investigate and take appropriate action on alleged cases of animal abuse.

Domestic Cervidae State: §§25-3701 to 3709

All facilities that raise domestic Cervidae (89 facilities) are required to meet facility, animal, reporting, and movement requirements.

Livestock Markets State: §§25-1719 to 1737

All public livestock markets are required to operate under a charter issued by ISDA.

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#### **Rendering Establishments**

All rendering establishments and dead animal services are required to be inspected and licensed by ISDA.

# **Division of Animal Industries - Environment**

#### **Beef Cattle Animal Feeding Operations**

**State:** §§22-4901 to 4910 Federal: Clean Water Act

**State:** §§25-3801 to 3809

State: §§25-3201 to 3208

All Beef Cattle Animal Feeding Operations are required by state law and rule to be inspected to ensure that state and federal environmental regulations are not violated.

#### **Agriculture Odor Management**

Agricultural operations are required to manage odors so that they do not exceed odors normally associated with acceptable agricultural practices in Idaho

#### **Dairy Waste Management**

**State:** §§37-401 to 413 Federal: Clean Water Act

State: §§25-201 to 237

All dairies regardless of size are regulated to ensure that state and federal environmental requirements are not violated.

#### **Dead Animal Movement and Disposal**

All dead animals, carcasses, and parts of carcasses are required to be disposed of in a manner approved by ISDA.

# **Range Management Program**

This program provides technical support and expertise to Idaho rangeland livestock producers and federal and state agencies for the planning and management of vegetation and other rangeland resources through the application of Best Management Practices and utilization of collaborative management processes.

# **Division of Animal Industries - Sanitation / Public Health**

#### **Dairy Farm Milking Center Sanitation**

**State:** §§37-301 to 343, §§37-401 to 413 ISDA is authorized to inspect the sanitary conditions and construction of milk handling equipment, milking complex, surrounding drug and pesticide usage/storage, and water supplies.

**Bulk Milk Haulers State:** §§37-401 to 413

ISDA dairy investigators inspect bulk milk haulers and sampler procedures, and the sanitary conditions of tank units and appurtenances. In addition, inspectors conduct training and testing of haulers and samplers for licensure.

#### State Milk Processing Plants

This program provides for the inspection of milk processing plants for design, construction, installation and operation of equipment, and sanitary inspection of processing facilities. Performance testing of processing equipment is also conducted. Additionally, finished product testing for compliance with state and federal standards is conducted.

# **USDA Milk Processing Plants**

Federal: Voluntary Program, 7 CFR 58 Subpart B Under a cooperative agreement with USDA, ISDA is authorized to conduct inspections of milk processing plants for design, construction, installation and operation of equipment, and sanitary inspection of processing facilities. It also conducts performance testing of processing equipment for compliance with USDA plant inspection program.

# **Interstate Milk Shippers, Farms, and Processing Plants**

**State:** §§37-401 to 413

State: §§37-502 to 519

Federal: Pasteurized Milk Ordinance

**State:** §§37-401 to 413, §§37-701 to 711

This program provides state evaluation of Grade A dairy farms, dairy plants, single service manufactures and enforcement procedures of the Department of Agriculture for compliance with the provisions of Pasteurized Milk Ordinance to provide authority for milk to move in intra and interstate commerce.

#### Inspection and Licensing of Dairy Product Establishments

This program establishes inspection criteria, licensure, and testing procedures for licensed dairy plants.

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**State:** §§37-1001 to 1015

**State:** §§37-1501 to 1530

# **Discrimination and Unfair Competition in Buying** and Selling Dairy Products

This program establishes the practices in how milk and dairy products can be marketed in Idaho to prevent unfair competition or monopolies.

**USDA Dairy Product Grading and Sampling** 

Federal: Voluntary Program, 7 CFR 58 Subpart B ISDA has a cooperative agreement with USDA to grade and sample dairy products under the USDA Dairy Grading Program to qualify products for sale under A.M.S. programs.

#### **USDA Shell Egg Surveillance and Inspections**

ISDA staff is licensed by USDA to conduct shell egg quarterly surveillance of egg farms, and to grade shell eggs for compliance with USDA Grade Labeling Program.

#### **Mosquito Program**

ISDA tests, calibrates, and certifies pesticide application equipment for mosquito abatement districts.

# <u>Division of Animal Industries - Animal Health and Dairy Laboratory</u>

The Animal Health Lab provides the testing services in support of several Federal-State cooperative disease eradication programs. The largest is the Brucellosis Eradication Program, in which animals that are sold, slaughtered, imported, or exported are required to be tested in a federally certified lab. Pseudorabies is another such program. The lab provides training and testing in support of the state Trichomoniasis Program. The lab also provides services to the Fish and Game Wildlife Lab. The lab conducts tests that are required by importing states or countries for a number of diseases such as Equine Infectious Anemia, Bovine Leukosis, and Bluetongue. Diagnostic services are also available to practicing veterinarians.

The dairy laboratory collects and conducts tests on dairy products for quality, adulterants and compliance with standards. **State**: §§37-401 to 413, §§37-701 to 711

Import / Export State: §§25-201 to 237 Federal: 9 CFR Subchapter C and D

**Brucellosis** State: §§25-201 to 237 and §§25-601 to 618

Federal: 9 CFR Subchapter B and C

**Trichomoniasis** State: §§25-201 to 237

Pseudorabies/Swine Health **State:** §§25-201 to 237 and §§25-3401 to 3407

Federal: 9 CFR Subchapter B and C

**General Animal Health and related Programs** 

State: §§25-201 to 237 Federal: 9 CFR Subchapter C and D

#### Division of Administration and Support Services - International Trade and Domestic Market Development **International and Domestic Marketing** State: §§22-112

This division promotes the sale of Idaho food and agriculture products around the world and directly assists agricultural producers with expanding their domestic and international markets. International programs include trade missions, trade shows, trade policy and exporter education. Domestic programs include farmers' markets, specialty foods, specialty crops and livestock, agriculture development, value-added agriculture and Idaho Preferred TM. Idaho Preferred TM is a brand identity campaign that uses the Idaho Preferred TM logo to identify and promote food and agriculture products in the Gem state. This division also administers USDA specialty crop grants.

**Rural Rehab Loans State:** §§57-1401 to 1406

The Department is authorized to receive and administer trust assets from the U.S. Department of Agriculture under the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act for the purposes of rural development. The Department subsequently offers Agricultural Development Loans in amounts up to \$35,000. The total asset balance of the program is \$329,922 with an actual available cash balance to lend of \$120,000.

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**State:** §§22-901 to 914

**State:** §§22-2201 to 2225

**State:** §§22-2301 to 2325

#### **Federal-State Market News**

The division has a cooperative agreement with the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service to operate the market news service for potatoes and onions. The news service provides the daily price reports for potatoes and onions nationwide. Of the five staff located at the office in Idaho Falls, 1.5 are provided by the state and the remainder by USDA.

#### **Division of Plant Industries**

**Pure Seed State:** §§22-414 to 436

Seed which is transported, sold, offered or exposed for sale, or delivered under contract is subject to periodic sampling and analytical testing by ISDA to ensure compliance with Idaho and, where applicable, federal law.

**Seed Potatoes State:** §§22-501 to 510

Only certified seed potatoes are allowed by law to be imported and/or planted within the state of Idaho, except under special conditions set forth in the rules. This program also provides for arbitration between seed potato buyers and sellers in the case of a dispute.

**Commercial Fertilizer** State: §§22-601 to 625

Fertilizer manufacturers are required under this truth-in-labeling law to register their products with the department and subject their products to periodic sampling and analytical testing to ensure that label guarantees are being met and that the product is not adulterated or misbranded.

# **Potatoes - Grading and Packing**

This program establishes a grading system to ensure the quality of potatoes and mandates the registration of brands offered for sale in Idaho. It also requires that retail outlets offering potatoes for sale show the grade and origin.

#### **Organic Food Products**

**State:** §§22-1101 to 1108 This consumer protection program establishes standards for food products marketed and labeled using the term "organic," or a derivative of the term "organic." These standards also facilitate the development of out-of-state markets for Idaho food grown by organic methods. These chapters also comply with the national organic standards as required by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

# Idaho Plant Pest Act (Import/Export Certification)

**State:** §§22-2001 to 2023 The purpose of this program is to prevent the introduction of plant pests into Idaho through the movement of plants and plant products or through the movement of the pests themselves. The Export Certification, Grasshopper, Mormon cricket, Abandoned orchard and Pest and Invasive Species Survey and Detection programs fall under this code.

#### **Soil and Plant Amendments**

Under this truth-in-labeling law, soil and plant amendment manufacturers are required to register their products with the department and subject their products to periodic sampling and analytical testing to ensure that label guarantees are being met and that the products are not adulterated or misbranded. Labels are also subject to review by the department for compliance with Idaho and, where applicable, federal law.

# **Nurseries and Florists (Export Certification)**

Idaho has chosen to establish the production of nursery and florist stock as an agricultural pursuit, periodic inspections are conducted of nursery and florist stock sold in Idaho to provide a high quality, pest and diseasefree product to the citizens of Idaho and Idaho's external trading partners. ISDA is also authorized to issue certificates, permits and licensing of persons affected by the provisions of this chapter.

Bee Inspection **State:** §§22-2517 to 2540

In order to transport beehives into other states for pollination and honey production, hives must be marked, inspected and certified. Inspections and control authority to minimize the presence of bee pests and diseases within the state is also authorized within this program.

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State: §§22-3201 to 3202

#### **Rainfall - Artificial Production**

Anyone conducting operations to artificially induce rainfall within the state of Idaho must register with ISDA, and all activities conducted by a registrant must be filed with the department.

#### Commercial Animal Feed

**State:** §§25-2715 to 2728

Under this truth-in-labeling law animal feed manufacturers are required to register their products with the department and subject their products to periodic sampling and analytical testing to ensure that label guarantees are being met and that the products are not adulterated or misbranded. Labels are also subject to review by the department for compliance with Idaho and federal law.

# **Phytosanitary and Post Entry Certification Rules**

State: §22-103(22), 107, 702

ISDA is authorized to inspect and certify agricultural commodities intended for export from Idaho to another state or foreign country, and issue state and federal phytosanitary certificates to certify their export. Federal phytosanitary certificates are issued by the department pursuant to a "Memorandum of Understanding" with the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine.

#### Rules Enacted to Detect, Prevent and Control the Introduction of Various Crop Pests & Diseases

**State:** §§22-2006, 2012, 2013, 2017; §22-108(2)

The purpose of these rules is to help prevent the introduction of new plant pests and diseases into Idaho, and to help Idaho producers meet importing and exporting certification procedures. Programs included rules governing: Hops (Humulus lupulus); Bacterial Diseases of Beans, (Phaseolus Spp.); White Rot Disease of Onion; Quarantine Rules Pertaining to Apples and Cherries; European Corn Borer; Annual Bluegrass, Poa annua; Peach Tree Diseases; the Disposal of Cull Onions and Potatoes; Mint Rootstock and Clone Production; Grape Quarantine Planting Stock; the Japanese Beetle (Popillia japonica); Rapeseed Production and Establishment of Rapeseed Districts: Seed Potato Crop Management Areas: Non-native Phytophagous Snails: Anthracnose Disease of Lentil. (Lens culinaris medik); Rough Bluegrass, (Poa trivialis); Karnal Bunt Disease of Wheat, Rye and Triticale; Plum Curculio (Conotrachelus nenuphar); and Ginseng Crop Management for Magic Valley.

# **Virus-Free Certification of Nursery Stock**

**State:** §§22-103(22), 107, 702, 2302(5)

These rules establish procedures for a voluntary program to meet Canadian requirements for the importation of certified virus free nursery stock and planting material. Grower responsibilities, registration, record maintenance, field isolation, inspection, laboratory testing, and plant identification (tagging) requirements are outlined in detail.

#### **Genetically Modified Organisms**

**State:** §22-2016

A database is maintained of all regulated genetically modified organisms permitted by USDA to enter Idaho. This allows the division to keep abreast of this type of work going on within the state and mediate problems should they arise.

# **Noxious Weed Program**

This program provides training, advice, and support to the 21 Idaho Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMA) and counties that are not part of a CWMA; administers the Noxious Weed Cost Share Grant programs; created and maintains a statewide GIS noxious weed database; and provides training and support to county and CWMA specialists for weed mapping and data entry. It also administers Noxious Weed-Free Forage and Straw Program.

#### **Plant Pathology Laboratory**

**State:** §§22-2001 to 2023

**State:** §§22-2401 to 2413

The Plant Pathology Lab performs a wide variety of tests to prevent the introduction of certain pathogens into the state. For example, beans destined for planting within Idaho must be found free of five bacterial pathogens. Other tests allow our producers to meet the phytosanitary requirements of buyers in other states and countries. The lab is also frequently involved in surveys to determine the scope of a pathogen within the United States.

State of Idaho Page 10 Agency Profiles Seed Laboratory State: §§22-418

The lab provides testing services for samples collected by state investigators or submitted by the public for regulatory compliance, as well as, domestic and international export. Seed purity and germination is determined through a variety of tests. Lab personnel represent Idaho in voting on rule changes to the Association of Official Seed Analyst rules for testing seed.

# Feed and Fertilizer Laboratory

Feed samples are collected by department inspectors and analyzed for label claims such as guarantees for protein, minerals, vitamins and drugs. Selected samples are tested for mycotoxins, poisonous compounds produced by certain molds or for heavy metals. Some are examined by microscope to verify that the ingredients on the label match those actually used. Products found to be misbranded or adulterated may be subject to a Stop-Sale order. Fertilizer samples are collected similarly and analyzed for the guaranteed nutrients. Samples found to be deficient are subject to fines based on the cost of the ingredient(s). The lab also screens certain products for heavy metals.

 Feeds
 State: §\$25-2715 to 2728

 Fertilizers
 State: §\$22-601 to 625

 Soil and Plant Amendments
 State: §\$22-2201 to 2225

#### **Idaho Soil Conservation Commission**

The Idaho Soil Conservation Commission is mandated to provide for conservation improvements, projects, and programs that are locally planned, coordinated, and implemented through statutory provisions pertaining to soil conservation districts and other appropriate state and federal agencies. The Soil Conservation Commission leads non-regulatory efforts to conserve, sustain, improve, and enhance Idaho's private and state lands, and to provide assistance to private landowners and land users to plan, develop, and implement conservation plans addressing soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources.

#### **Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share Program**

Federal: Clean Water Act (PL 92-500)

State: §22-2734

**State**: §22-5201

State: §22-2733

Provides cost-share opportunities to owners and operators of agricultural lands for the voluntary implementation of best management practices to improve and protect water quality. Priority areas include TMDL watersheds; watersheds containing habitat for aquatic species listed under the Endangered Species Act and ground water quality protection areas. The program leverages and matches federal, state and private funds in addressing water quality and habitat-related natural resource concerns.

# **Carbon Sequestration Advisory Committee**

The Soil Conservation Commission is leading a state-wide effort in describing the agricultural and private forest industry's potential in mitigating international greenhouse gas emissions through land-based practices. Methane reductions from waste management systems; carbon sequestration through agroforestry and geological processes: and nitrous oxide reductions through improved nutrient management are examples of these practices.

#### **Clearwater Focus Program**

State: Gubernatorial Directive

The Clearwater Focus Program (CFP) is a component of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program. Program goals are to coordinate state, federal, tribal, and private resources to identify critical fish and wildlife habitat, conduct enhancement and restorative work, and identify funding sources for implementation of on-the-ground habitat enhancement and restoration projects. The SCC and the Nez Perce Tribe coordinate efforts to achieve multi-jurisdictional stewardship goals and to maximize interagency cooperation and coordination.

# **Conservation Grant Program**

The purpose of grants from the state Soil Conservation Commission general fund is to finance conservation improvements, projects, and implementation of the Water Quality Program for Agriculture. Grants provide up to 50% cost-sharing for installation of agricultural conservation practices to protect water quality, improve range/grazing lands, improve/enhance riparian areas, and enhance critical fish and wildlife habitat. Grant applications must be accompanied by conservation plans designed and approved by the appropriate technical agency and sponsoring conservation district.

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# **Effluent Trading Programs**

Provide technical and program assistance to multiple interests (primarily agricultural) in the development of effluent trading projects between point and nonpoint source entities. The SCC is a principal participant in the Lower Boise effluent trading program via a signed MOA with multiple agencies and other stakeholders involved.

#### **Grazing Land Conservation Initiative (GLCI)**

GLCI provides limited annual state funding annually for development of grazing related conservation plans within TMDL, ESA, and other high priority natural resource areas. This program is currently not being implemented due to budget restrictions.

#### **Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan**

**State**: §39-3601 **Federal**: Clean Water Act (PL 92-500, §208)

The Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan is a guidance document that describes the state's process for the control and abatement of agricultural nonpoint source pollution as it relates to water quality. The goal of the Ag Plan is to contribute to the restoration and maintenance of the quality of surface and ground waters in Idaho as impacted by agricultural nonpoint source pollutants. The SCC leads a coordinated effort to gain input from major stakeholders.

Idaho OnePlan State: §22-2718

OnePlan is a cooperative, multi-agency effort using computer technology and software development to combine a myriad of government regulations; and current best management practices; technical assistance; local, state and federal programs; and financial assistance possibilities into a holistic conservation plan. The program provides downloadable software and interactive web programs enabling landowners to develop conservation farm plans. The conservation planning umbrella is in place, as well as the nutrient management practices (NMP) component. Other components under development are integrated pest management (IPM) and range management.

#### **Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) Idaho Cadre**

**State**: §39-3602

**State:** §§22-2714 to 2735

Federal: MOA with BLM & Forest Service

SCC is a cooperative member on the Cadre in the training and furthering of riparian assessments and improvement of riparian conditions via a signed MOU with land management agencies.

Resource Conservation & Rangeland Development Program

State: §§22-2730. 22-2731 and 22-2732

Low-interest loans to ag operators to install practices for the enhancement of soil and water resources, improvement of riparian areas and fish and wildlife habitat, to increase agricultural productivity. Grants provide 50 percent cost-sharing for installation of agricultural conservation practices to protect water quality, improve range/grazing lands, improve/enhance riparian areas and enhance critical fish and wildlife habitat. Loan applications and grant applications must be accompanied by conservation plans designed and approved by the appropriate technical agency and sponsoring conservation district.

#### **Soil Conservation Districts (SCDs)**

The Idaho Soil Conservation Commission provides administrative support and guidance to Idaho's 51 Soil Conservation Districts in the wise use and enhancement of natural resources. Districts, legal subdivisions of state government, provide a critical function as local liaisons to private landowners and users in addressing natural resource concerns. Working in cooperative partnership with federal, state and private agencies/groups, districts take available technical, financial and educational resources, whatever their source, and coordinate them so they meet the needs of the local land owners or users in a non-regulatory manner to address natural resource needs.

**Soil Survey Federal:** PL 74F-46, 49 Stat. 163 (16USC 590a-f) and PL 89 - 560, 80 Stat. 706 (42USC 3271-3274)

Provide critical soil information for the State of Idaho by participating in the National Cooperative Soil Survey Program administered by the USDA.

#### **State Revolving Fund**

**State:** §§39-3629 to 3632.01, §22-2735 **Federal:** Clean Water Act (PL 92-500)

The Idaho Soil Conservation Commission has established a water quality financial assistance loan program in cooperation with the Department of Environmental Quality to assist sub-recipients in Idaho with implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs), addressing non-point source (NPS) issues at the rural-urban interphase.

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Technical Assistance State: §39-3602

Lead development of agricultural components of TMDL implementation plans and provision of on-the-ground implementation of agricultural best management practices to protect and improve water quality.

#### **TMDL Watershed Planning and Implementation**

**State:** §39-3601

State: Gubernatorial Directive

Federal: Clean Water Act (PL 92-500)

As the designated agency for Agriculture and Grazing, the SCC assists DEQ with technical aspects of agricultural and grazing components of TMDL Development. Thereafter, the SCC is responsible for the planning and implementation of land treatment BMPs to protect and improve water quality in TMDL watersheds impacted by agricultural and grazing activities.

#### **Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Project**

The Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Project (USBWP) is a component of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program. Program goals are to coordinate state, federal, tribal, and private resources to identify critical fish and wildlife habitat, conduct enhancement and restorative work, and identify funding sources for implementation of on-the-ground habitat enhancement and restoration projects. The SCC, Lemhi and Custer SWCDs coordinate efforts to achieve multi-jurisdictional stewardship goals and to maximize multi-agency cooperation and coordination.

# **Water Quality Program for Agriculture**

State: §22-2734 Federal: Clean Water Act (PL 92-500)

Provides cost-sharing to owners and operators of agricultural lands for ag and grazing improvement to protect water quality. Priority areas include TMDL watersheds; watersheds containing habitat for aquatic species listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act, and ground water quality protection areas. The program is used to leverage and match federal, state and private funds in addressing water quality and habitat-related natural resource concerns.

#### **Watershed Advisory Groups**

**State:** §§39-3611, 3616

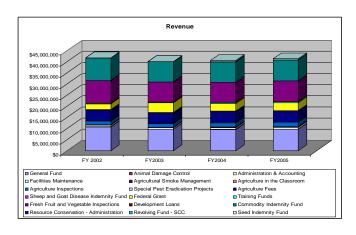
Federal: Clean Water Act (PL 92-500)

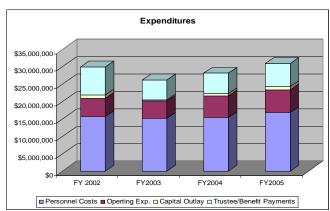
The SCC provides technical, administrative and limited financial assistance to watershed advisory groups, recommending specific actions needed to control point and nonpoint sources of pollution within the watershed so that designated beneficial uses are fully supported and other state water quality plans are achieved.

# **Revenue and Expenditures:**

Revenue	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
General Fund	\$10,645,000	\$9,892,000	\$9,442,800	\$9,572,700
Animal Damage Control	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
Administration & Accounting	\$662,000	\$648,700	\$764,000	\$711,600
Facilities Maintenance	\$85,700	\$71,100	\$89,200	\$90,200
Agricultural Smoke				
Management	\$0	\$7,100	\$103,800	\$186,700
Agriculture in the Classroom	\$32,800	\$26,300	\$26,100	\$29,300
Agriculture Inspections	\$986,900	\$1,069,600	\$1,082,300	\$2,030,700
Special Pest Eradication				
Projects	\$157,400	\$129,500	\$223,500	\$47,800
Agriculture Fees	\$4,479,900	\$4,383,700	\$4,487,000	\$4,512,600
Sheep and Goat Disease				
Indemnity Fund	\$3,800	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Grant	\$7,430,500	\$2,683,400	\$3,304,700	\$3,937,700
Seminars and Publications	\$200,700	\$246,400	\$277,000	\$304,700
Fresh Fruit and Vegetable				
Inspections	\$6,769,400	\$6,769,400	\$6,067,700	\$5,940,500
Development Loans	\$10,400	\$10,400	\$8,100	\$7,400
Commodity Indemnity Fund	\$1,121,100	\$1,121,100	\$1,092,800	\$1,792,000
Seed Indemnity Fund	\$364,900	\$364,900	\$428,600	\$530,700

Resource Conservation	\$381,400	\$379,200	\$357,800	\$374,000
Revolving Fund - SCC	\$0	\$0	\$13,900	18,300
Seed Indemnity Fund	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	\$475,800	\$490,300
Total	\$41,666,200	\$40,004,600	\$40,520,200	\$41,285,500
Expenditure	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Personnel Costs	\$15,687,600	\$19,157,400	\$15,169,500	\$16,805,500
Operating Expenditures	\$5,227,500	\$6,285,000	\$6,134,600	\$6,532,700
Capital Outlay	\$1,048,400	\$350,600	\$622,900	\$902,000
Trustee/Benefit Payments	\$8,044,300	\$5,359,100	\$4,234,300	\$6,717,400
Total	\$30,007,800	\$31,152,100	\$26,161,300	\$30,957,700





# **Profile of Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided**

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Animal Industries				
Conduct surveillance for all program diseases	2,145,902	2,123,921	2,059,944	1,965,517
Investigate suspected diseases	272	1,065	1,064	992
Conduct licensing, inspection, and certification for compliance with state or federal law	361	377	340	357
Inspect all dairy farms and plants for compliance with sanitation, quality, and wholesomeness standards	3,834	3,851	4,282	3,378
Issue permits to all qualified dairies and permits or licenses to dairy plants and bulk haulers and egg distributors	450	400	339	262
Conduct grading of dairy and egg products to assure compliance with standards	59,284,658	81,475,405	66,061,605	2,663,376
Inspect and approve all dairy waste management systems for compliance with state and federal laws	2,131	2,664	2,286	2,460
Perform disease tests on animals and animal tissues for regulatory diseases, to meet import/export requirements and for zoonotic diseases	277,008	380,762	422,751	253,960

Cases Managed and/or Key Services	EV 0000	EV 0000	EV 0004	EV 0005
Provided	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Perform tests on finished dairy products	4,391	4,464	4,251	5,683
for quality. Presence of adulterants and				
to determine producer payment				
Agriculture Inspections	10001	1222		
100% Target for licensing warehouses	100%	100%	100%	100%
Inspect and test all known commercially	98%	98%	100%	100%
used weighing and measuring devices				
Provide information to public concerning	100%	100%	100%	100%
weights and measures issues				
Maintain Idaho metrology lab	100%	100%	100%	100%
certification by planning for future federal				
requirements				
License all those required to be licensed	100%	100%	100%	100%
by statute				
Agricultural Resources				
Review and registration of applications	8,786	8,763	9,444	9,538
for pesticide registrations				
Pesticide applicator licenses	7,515	7,478	8,385	8,241
Pesticide inspections and investigations	365	258	193	180
Ground water sampling	4,066	3,522	3,515	3,530
Conduct statewide groundwater	440/1,760	440/1760	350/1820	375/2000
sampling follow-ups				
Worker protection training sessions	12	15	27	11
Worker protector inspections	152	128	102	107
Waste pesticides disposed	93,580	90,000	70,453	68,501
Containers recycled by calendar year	84,266	90.000	130,120	112,759
Plant Industries	,		,	,
Review/registration of feed labels and	7,690	7,941	7,500	7,188
products	,,,,,,	.,	,,,,,,	1,100
Collect commercial feed samples	786	978	1,160	724
Issue Nurseryman/Florists licenses	1,648	1,827	1,700	1,939
Field Inspections - acres	60,493	60,694	95,000	74,757
Issue phytosanitary certificates	7,685	6,770	9,000	5,924
Collect seed samples for compliance to	130	133	150	95
Idaho pure seed law, noxious weed law,	100	100	100	00
feed law, and referee testing				
Perform purity, germination, and special	16,194	15,539	18,000	11,412
testing of certified seeds for Idaho Crop	10,104	10,000	10,000	11,712
Improvement Association and uncertified				
seeds for the seed industry				
Issue seed dealer's licenses	576	592	580	581
Review/registration of fertilizer labels	3,189	2,625	3,000	3,788
and products	0,100	2,020	0,000	0,700
Marketing and Development				
Lead domestic and international trade	3	2	2	3
missions	3	2	2	3
Participate in targeted domestic and	5	5	5	6
international trade shows	5	5	5	U
Develop promotional events and	9	11	15	18
materials	9	11	ı	10
	2/2	2/2	80	125
Recruit Idaho companies into the Idaho	n/a	n/a	80	125
Preferred Program				

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Soil Conservation Commission				
Conservation systems implemented on	113,409	132,000	135,000	144,000
cropland (acres)				
Conservation systems implemented on	125,458	59,591	70,000	249,000
other land uses (acres)				
Buffer systems planned or implemented	3,521	2,410	3,000	200
Grazing/pasture management systems	132,276	55,000	60,000	214,000
implemented (acres)				
Riparian acres implemented with	2,517	2,044	2,000	365
protection, restoration, enhancement or				
creation (acres)				
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) –	850,000	791,507	950,000	801,000
Private ag land removed from tillage				
induced erosion through financial				
incentive for a contractual time period				
(acres)				

# **Performance Highlights:**

#### New Department Website

On May 4, 2005, ISDA launched an all new user-friendly website - <a href="www.idahoag.us">www.idahoag.us</a>. Our philosophy is that the use of technology should make life easier; therefore, we took a new customer-focused approach. We entrusted our employees who have the working knowledge of our programs and services to design, develop and implement this new site. By doing so, we have improved our efficiency and response time to Idaho producers and consumers by providing answers, forms, and publications directly online. Customers just want answers, and this site was designed with that in mind. Straightforward descriptions of the department's services should make it easy for visitors to locate the information they are seeking in a quick and well-organized manner.

The excellent performance of this team of thirty-four employees in developing this new website internally has resulted in savings far in excess of the cost of outside development. Many inquiries previously requiring research and response from ISDA staff can now be found directly on our website. The operating efficiencies gained from the new website this team has created will provide savings immediately, and far into the future.

#### Crop Residue Disposal Program:

The program was moved to the division of Agricultural Resources, which resulted in several internal changes, including implementation of a new accounting program. The information on the web page was improved to include more specific information about the locations of fields scheduled to be burned. A new records management system was also developed and implemented in 2005.

The total number of agricultural acres registered to be burned in Idaho in 2005 increased from 109,068 in 2004 to 126,982 in 2005 (27% increase). Due to the increased work load, two new part-time field coordinators were added in Northern Idaho and the program coordinator in Boise was changed from a part-time to a full-time position. Consequently, a request to increase spending authority in this program is currently pending with the Joint Finance & Appropriations Committee.

Several significant changes occurred in the southern tier counties. Contacts with the BLM, DEQ, Fire Districts and USFS were increased, with additional information shared between all agencies. The amount of training and public outreach was significantly increased and the number of agricultural acres registered for burning increased from 3,216 to 11,590 (260%).

#### Noxious Weeds - Eurasian Watermilfoil

In response to growing concerns about the rapid spread of Eurasian Watermilfoil in lakes and ponds in Northern Idaho, and at the request of the Governor's Office, the ISDA Noxious Weeds Program contributed \$40,000 from its general fund sources to boost funds already allocated to two Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs)

who had outlined the research and control of Eurasian Watermilfoil as priorities in their Annual Operating Plans. With the proven effectiveness of the CWMA process already in place, funds could be distributed knowing immediate action could be taken without having to re-educate new researchers or train new workers. One of the strengths of the CWMA program is the cooperative nature of its structure, combining resources, skills, and knowledge from federal, state, county, and private landowners, who work together across jurisdictional boundaries to accomplish more than would be possible individually.

One significant impact on the State's ability to locate new infestations of Eurasian Watermilfoil and to respond quickly and effectively is the advent of new mapping technology. Aerial oblique angle photography and improved imagery, ground-truthing by divers, and updates to mapping software combine to make it easier to more accurately pinpoint specific infestations of Eurasian Watermilfoil and to focus available resources on rapid and aggressive treatment and eradication efforts. The Noxious Weeds Team at ISDA, including its recently hired GIS Analyst, looks forward to providing ongoing training to its 39 CWMA and statewide Cost Share participant groups, as well as working with weed superintendents and county commissioners, schools, and other agencies to improve the coordination and sharing of information throughout the state. The accurate collection and reporting of information will enable these various groups to provide up-to-date visual aids to assist decision-makers at all levels in dealing with the alarming influx of invasive noxious weeds such as Eurasian Watermilfoil.

#### **For More Information Contact**

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